

By Wayne King

<http://www.rightsidenews.com/2010051710242/global-terrorism/egyptian-convert-from-islam-devastated-by-delay-tactic.html>

Human rights groups and government agencies around the world have condemned Egypt for its record on religious freedom. In a report issued earlier this month, **the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom** outlined Egypt's problems with identification cards and the treatment of converts from Islam, taking note of Hegazy's case.

"The Egyptian government generally does not recognize conversions of Muslims to other religions," the report states. "Egyptian courts also have refused to allow Muslims who convert to Christianity to change their identity cards to reflect their conversions. In the first such case, brought by Muhammad Hegazy, a lower court ruled in January 2008 that Muslims are forbidden from converting away from Islam based on principles of Islamic law. The court also stated that such conversion would constitute a disparagement of the official state religion and an enticement for other Muslims to convert. Hegazy, who has been subjected to death threats and is currently in hiding, has appealed the ruling."